

the "consent of the governed"? The Ship Canal, Mr. Lyons's "natural boundary," is to Mr. La Guardia the "logical boundary line." That is exactly the language of land-grabbing statesmen and nations. They want a natural, symmetrical and logical frontier. And when they want to yank in people against their will, they never fail to recommend their cultural advantages, just as Mr. Lyons wants to lug Marble Hill into the "Borough of Universities." We renew our suggestion of last Spring, that this controversy be referred to an arbitration commission consisting of Magistrate Curran and Park Commissioner Moses.

MARBLE HILL

Again the despot's heel is on thy shore, Marble Hill, O Marble Hill! Till 1903 the fifty-two acres of this lovely and unfortunate district were the uttermost northern extremity of Manhattan. Spuyten Duyvil Creek parted this tip from the farms of the Bronx. The Government digs the Shipping Canal, south of Marble Hill, from the Hudson to the Harlem. The waters of the creek are turned into the canal. Its bed is filled. By no fault of its own, Marble Hill is made a closer neighbor of the Bronx, made continental instead of insular. Last March President Lyons of the Bronx discovered that the natural, physical line of division between the Bronx and the Hill "should be the Harlem Ship Canal."

That is, the natural boundary is the artificial one. Enjoying his joke to the full, Mr. Lyons pictured Jonas Bronck, the name-saint of his borough, as "looking down from his heavenly home," rejoicing in the annexation of Marble Hill, whose people were at last relieved from their long "bondage." President Isaacs of Manhattan pleaded for self-determination, though he knew of no Marble Hiller who wanted to be a Bronxite. A sort of unceremonious plebiscite confirmed this opinion. On March 11 President Lyons, playing Columbus, climbed a rocky promontory in Marble Hill, unfurled the borough flag, orange, blue and white, and solemnly proclaimed that Marble Hill was a part of the Bronx. Nobody seems to have objected except the Marble Hillers.

Quiet through the Summer and Fall, on Nov. 10 annexer Lyons asked the Mayor to appoint a boundary commission. No, writes the Mayor to the Board of Estimate on Dec. 4. "A boundary question can only arise between sovereign States" or separate political subdivisions. In this case all the property is in the City of New York. It is hard to follow the Mayor here. Don't boroughs have boundaries? Is Marble Hill without boundary? Turn the matter over to Corporation Counsel, continues the Mayor. Let him draw up a bill for the City Council or the Legislature.

How did the Mayor come to forget